

**CLAIMS**

- 1 1. A method of managing electronic mail (email) messages in an email account, the method  
2 comprising:  
3 displaying to a user a first email message on a display screen of a device;  
4 presenting the user with a plurality of deletion options in response to detecting an  
5 intent of the user to perform an action on the first email message;  
6 receiving an input signal from the user that selects one of deletion options; and  
7 in response to the input signal, performing the action on the first email message  
8 and setting a deletion criterion for a second email message based on the selected deletion  
9 option.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the second email message is the first email message and  
2 the action is to close the first email message.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the action is to send the first email message and the  
2 second email message is a copy of the sent first email message.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of setting the deletion criterion for the second  
2 email message includes associating deletion of the second email message to an  
3 occurrence of a scheduled item.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the scheduled item is an appointment in a calendar.
- 1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the scheduled item is a task in a task list.

- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of setting the deletion criterion for the second  
2 email message includes scheduling deletion of the second email message to a specified  
3 time.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising prompting the user for confirmation before  
2 deleting the second email message based on the deletion criterion.
- 1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising defining by the user each deletion option to be  
2 presented.
- 1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a mailbox view listing a plurality  
2 of email messages, and providing an indicator for each email message scheduled for  
3 deletion.
- 1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising activating the indicator for one of the email  
2 messages to display deletion criterion associated with that email message.
- 1 12. A computing system for managing electronic mail (email) messages in an email account,  
2 the computing system comprising:  
3 a display screen;  
4 an input device receiving a first signal from a user of the computer system  
5 indicating an intent of the user to perform an action on a first email message displayed on  
6 the display screen; and  
7 a processor executing an email client program to display a plurality of deletion  
8 options on the display screen in response to the first signal, the email client program  
9 performing the action on the first email message and setting a deletion criterion for a

10 second email message in response to a second signal received by the input device that  
11 selects one of the deletion options.

1 13. The computing system of claim 12, wherein the second email message is the first email  
2 message and the action is to close the first email message.

1 14. The computing system of claim 12, wherein the action is to send the first email message  
2 to a recipient and the second email message is a copy of the sent first email message.

1 15. The computing system of claim 12, wherein the deletion criterion for deleting the second  
2 email message is associated with an occurrence of a scheduled item.

3 16. The computing system of claim 12, wherein the deletion criterion for deleting the second  
4 email message includes an expiration date.

5 17. The computing system of claim 12, wherein the email client program displays on the  
6 display screen a mailbox view listing a plurality of email messages and an indicator for  
7 each email message scheduled for deletion.

1 18. The computing system of claim 17, wherein the email client program displays on the  
2 display screen deletion criterion associated with deleting one of the email messages for  
3 which the indicator is activated.

1 19. An apparatus for managing electronic mail (email) messages in an email account, the  
2 apparatus comprising:  
3 means for displaying to a user a first email message on a display screen of a  
4 device;

5 means for presenting the user with a plurality of deletion options in response to  
6 detecting an intent of the user to perform an action on the first email message;  
7 means for receiving an input signal from the user that selects one of deletion  
8 options; and  
9 means, responsive to the input signal, for performing the action on the first email  
10 message and for setting a deletion criterion for a second email message based on the  
11 selected deletion option.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the second email message is the first email message  
2 and the action is to close the first email message.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the action is to send the first email message to a  
2 recipient and the second email message is a copy of the sent first email message.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the means for setting the deletion criterion for the  
2 second email message includes means for associating deletion of the second email  
3 message to an occurrence of a scheduled item.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the means for setting the deletion criterion for the  
2 second email message includes means for scheduling deletion of the second email  
3 message to a specified time.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising means for displaying a mailbox view  
2 listing a plurality of email messages and for providing an indicator for each email  
3 message scheduled for deletion.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising means for activating the indicator for one  
2 of the email messages to display deletion criterion associated with that email message.

1 26. A computer program product for use with a computer system, the computer program  
2 product comprising a computer useable medium having embodied therein program code  
3 comprising:

4 program code for displaying to a user a first email message on a display screen of  
5 a device;

6 program code for presenting the user with a plurality of deletion options in  
7 response to detecting an intent of the user to perform an action on the first email message;

8 program code for receiving an input signal from the user that selects one of  
9 deletion options; and

10 program code, responsive to the input signal, for performing the action on the first  
11 email message and for setting a deletion criterion for a second email message based on  
12 the selected deletion option.

1 27. The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the second email message is the first  
2 email message and the action is to close the first email message.

1 28. The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the action is to send the first email  
2 message to a recipient and the second email message is a copy of the first email message.

1 29. The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the program code for setting the  
2 deletion criterion for the second email message includes program code for associating  
3 deletion of the second email message to an occurrence of a scheduled item.

1 30. The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the program code for setting the  
2 deletion criterion for the second email message includes program code for scheduling  
3 deletion of the second email message to a specified time.

1 31. The computer program product of claim 26, further comprising program code for  
2 displaying a mailbox view listing a plurality of email messages, and program code for  
3 providing an indicator for each email message scheduled for deletion.

1 32. The computer program product of claim 31, further comprising program code for  
2 activating the indicator for one of the email messages to display deletion criterion  
3 associated with that email message.

1 33. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave for use with a computer system  
2 having a display and capable of generating a user interface through which a user may  
3 interact with the computer system, the computer data signal comprising:  
4           program code for displaying to a user a first email message on a display screen of  
5 a device;  
6           program code for presenting the user with a plurality of deletion options in  
7 response to detecting an intent of the user to perform an action on the first email message;  
8           program code for receiving an input signal from the user that selects one of  
9 deletion options; and  
10           program code, responsive to the input signal, for performing the action on the first  
11 email message and for setting a deletion criterion for a second email message based on  
12 the selected deletion option.

- 1 34. The computer data signal of claim 33, wherein the second email message is the first email  
2 message and the action is to close the first email message.
- 1 35. The computer data signal of claim 33, wherein the action is to send the first email  
2 message to a recipient and wherein the second email message is a copy of the first email  
3 message.
- 1 36. The computer data signal of claim 33, wherein the program code for setting the deletion  
2 criterion for the second email message includes program code for associating deletion of  
3 the second email message to an occurrence of a scheduled item.
- 1 37. The computer data signal of claim 33, wherein the program code for setting the deletion  
2 criterion for the second email message includes program code for scheduling deletion of  
3 the second email message to a specified time.
- 1 38. The computer data signal of claim 33, further comprising program code for displaying a  
2 mailbox view listing a plurality of email messages, and program code for providing an  
3 indicator for each email message scheduled for deletion.
- 1 39. The computer data signal of claim 33, further comprising program code for activating the  
2 indicator for one of the email messages to display deletion criterion associated with that  
3 email message.